

**Collection Name:**

NAHA Archivist records, 1925-2024

Collection Number:

P1003

Extent:

13.6 cubic feet (34 archive boxes)

Biography/History:

The Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA) was founded on October 6, 1925, in the wake of the Norse-American Centennial—a four-day celebration that became a pivotal moment of cultural identity building, balancing pride in Norwegian heritage with a growing American identity. From its inception, NAHA has been headquartered at St. Olaf College, where it remains today. Now a century old, this independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization is supported by more than 1,000 members from across the United States, Canada, and Norway.

NAHA's founders were driven by a desire to move beyond the sentimental myths and hero-worship of early immigrant narratives. They sought instead a more rigorous, scholarly approach to preserving and interpreting the Norwegian-American experience. Their vision gave rise to a remarkable archive, dedicated to capturing and protecting the lived stories of Norwegian immigrants. Among NAHA's early leaders were influential figures such as novelist and professor O.E. Rølvaag, historian Knut Gjerset, journalist Kristian Prestgard, and academic Laurence Larson.

Central to NAHA's mission was American historian Theodore Blegen, who became the founding editor of the Association's publications. Blegen championed what he called a "grass-roots" approach to history—an emphasis on the everyday lives and voices of immigrants. Rather than spotlighting only the extraordinary, he focused on letters, diaries, and other primary sources to capture the experiences of ordinary men and women navigating the challenges of migration and settlement.

Since 1926, NAHA has published *Norwegian-American Studies*, a scholarly journal now produced in partnership with the University of Minnesota Press. The journal, along with NAHA's robust book publishing program, highlights research in fields such as history, literature, religion, art, and cultural studies. The organization has also played a vital role in amplifying women's ethnic history, publishing works by and about immigrant women like Aagot Raaen, Gro Svendsen, Elisabeth Koren, and Elise Waerenskjold.

NAHA is the steward of the largest archival collection of the Norwegian-American experience. In 1932, NAHA hired a young graduate student, Carlon Qualey, as its field agent. Qualey spent six weeks on the road that summer, scouring farms, churches, and towns in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois for papers related to Norwegian-American life. The documents he brought back to Northfield, combined with materials that had been collected earlier by Ole Rølvaag and Theodore Blegen, formed the foundation of the archives. The letters, ledgers, photographs, diaries, newspapers, and audio and video recordings housed here bring to life the Norwegian diaspora and its hundreds of thousands of individuals, businesses, and institutions.

Over the past century, many individuals have served as archivists and curators at NAHA, including Ole E. Rølvaag, J. Jørgen Thompson, Beulah Folkedahl, Charlotte Jacobsen, Gary DeKray, Jeff Sauve, Kristell Benson, and Kristina Warner.

Scope and Content:

Records of the Norwegian-American Historical Association's archives program. Related collections in the NAHA Institutional Records include: Publication Records (P1000), Secretary Records (P1001), Financial Records (P1002), and Archivist Records (P1003). See P1001, SERIES IV: Archives Contributions and Correspondence for more information on the archival program.

Funding:

Funding to rehouse and describe the NAHA institutional records provided to the Norwegian American Historical Association through the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, a component of the Minnesota Clean Water, Land and Legacy constitutional amendment, ratified by Minnesota voters in 2008.

**Access Rights:**

Portions of the collection are restricted due to privacy. Contact the archivist for permission to view the material in the NAHA Archivist Records.

Bibliographic Citation:

[Indicated cited item here]. NAHA Archivist Records. Norwegian American Historical Association, Northfield, Minnesota.

Processing Information:

Collection processed and described by Otelia Lighthill, Grace Peterson, and Kristina Warner.

Box	Folder	Description
		Forrest Brown Inquiries and Correspondence, 1990-2005
1	1	AA
1	2	AB-AM
1	3-4	ANDERSON
1	5	ANDR-AZ
1	6	BA
1	7	BE-BEN
1	8	BER-BJ
2	1	BL
2	2	BO
2	3	BR-BRO
2	4	BRU-By
2	5	CA
2	6	CH
2	7	CI-CL
3	1	CO-CZ
3	2	D-DE
3	3	DI
3	4	DO
3	5	DR-DZ
3	6	E-EN
4	1	ER-ERT
4	2	ERL-EZ
4	3	F-FJ
4	4	FL-FO
4	5	FR-FU
4	6	G-GE
4	7	GH-GO
5	1	GR-GZ
5	2	H-HAM
5	3	HAN-HAS
5	4	HAT-HAZ
5	5	HE-HEF
5	6	HEG-HEL
6	1	HEM-HET
6	2	HI-HL
6	3	HO
6	4	HU-I
6	5	JA-JE
6	6	JO-JOHNSON, D
7	1	JOHNSON, E- JU
7	2	KA-KE
7	3	KI-KL

7	4	KN-KV
7	5	L-LAR
7	6	LAS-LEE
8	1	LEI-LEW
8	2	LI
8	3	LO
8	4	LU-LZ
8	5	MA-MAN
9	1	MC
9	2	MAP-MAT
9	3	MAT-MEY
9	4	MAUK
9	5	MI-MOH
9	6	MOO-MY
10	1	N-NEW
10	2	NI-NY
10	3	O-OELBERG
10	4	OES-OLSON
10	5	OLSON, R
10	6	OM-OS
11	1	OYANE
11	2	P-PE
11	3	PF-PU
11	4	Q
11	5	R-RAM
11	6	RANBY
12	1	QUINN, B.
12	2	RAND-REI
12	3	REK-RI
12	4	RO-RON
12	5	ROO-ROS
12	6	ROT-RU
12	7	SCA-SCR
13	1	S-SAY
13	2	SE-SH
13	3	SI-SK
13	4	SL-SOV
13	5	SP-STEW
13	6	STI-STU
13	7	SU-SY
14	1	T-TH
14	2	TI-TY
14	3	U-V
14	4	WA

14	5	WE
14	6	WH-WIL
15	1	WIN-WY
15	2	X-Z

Charlotte Jacobson Inquiries and Correspondence, 1974-1990

15	3	A
15	4	B
15	5	C, D
15	6	Eastern Montana College Library
15	7	E, F
15	8	G
15	9	H
15	10	I, J
15	11	K, L
15	12	M, N
15	13	O, P
15	14	Q, R
15	15	S
15	16	T, U, V
15	17	W, X, Y, Z
15	18	Æ, Ø, Å

Jeff Sauve and Gary DeKrey Inquiries and Records, 2005-2018

15	19	A-Z, Individual Documents
16	1-8	Patron research, 2007-2009
16	1-12	Patron research, 2009
17	1-8	Patron research, 2008-2010
18	1-8	Patron research, 2009-2011
19	1	Patron research, 2010-2013
19	2-5	Patron research 2010-11
20	1	Norwegian visit, 2011
20	2	Patron research 2011
20	3	Ole Building, 2011 September 8
20	4-5	Johan Christoffer Hans Scroden, 2011
20	6	Simon Hansen Locken, 2011
20	7	Dept. of Red Wing Seminary, 2010
20	8-11	Requests, 2010-2011
20	12	In-person visit group, 2011
20	13	Email requests, 2010-2011
20	15	Archives/Office, 2010-2-11
21	1	Archives records including patron reference, 2011-2013
22	1	Archives/Office records, 2012
22	2	Donor correspondence, 2012
22	3-5	In-person visit, 2012-2013
22	6-9	Archivist files, 2007-2017

22	10	NOR-AM initiative, 2005
22	11	Standard tour script, 2005
22	12	Archives/Office record, 2004
22	13	Space issues/vault, 2007
22	14	Languages/minutes, 2006
22	15	Correspondence, 2006
22	16	Budget, 2005
22	17	Manuscript solicitation, circa 2005
22	18	Nordic images/Summer visits, circa 2005
23	1	Correspondence, 2004-2005
23	2	Hegeem/Rinden, 2006
23	3	Rowberg database, 2008
23	4	Coordination committee N-A experience, undated
23	5	Donation/funding ideas, 2006
23	6	Non-current, 2008
23	7	Numbers, 2014
23	8	Archives/language, 2015
23	9	MNHS Grant Rowberg Grant, undated
23	10	MNHS Rowberg Grant database notes, 2013
23	11	Rowberg project, 2009-2012
23	12	Rowberg Grant final report, 2013
23	13	Legacy Grant, 2012
23	14	Proposal for dissolution draft, 2009
23	15	Long-term planning, undated
23	16	Finances, 2008
23	17	Proposal for dissolution, 2009
23	18	Sons of Norway oral history project, 2012
23	19	Rowberg Copyright, 2014
23	20	Faculty/staff records, 2014
23	21	Digital projects, 2006
23	22	Archives/Office records, 2017
23	23	Illustration requests, 2017
23	24	Visitors, 2017
23	25	Norway Day, 2013
24	1	Norway Day, 2014
24	2	Rowberg collection, 2008-2014
24	3	Rowberg manual, 2012-2013
24	4	Rowberg scanning, 2013
24	5	Tour St. Olaf-Iowa, 2009
24	6	Archives/Office records, 2013
24	7	Board meeting, 2011October
24	8	Acknowledgement form blank, undated
24	9	Digital library, 2015-2017
24	10	Patron inquiries/general, 2009-2016

24	11	Library relationship, 2017
24	12	Archives/office records, 2011-2017
24	13	90th anniversary, 2015
24	14	Office/donor relations, 2017
24	15	Expected collections, 2017
25	1-2	NAHA research, 2006-07
25	3-4	HIST 169 talk, 2007
25	5	Old research/NAHA, 2004-06
25	6	Old research/NAHA, 2006-11
25	7	Database "Leif", 2005
26	1-2	Email correspondence, 2013
26	4-5	Email correspondence, 2014
26	6	Archives/office records, 2014
26	7-10	In-person visits, 2013-2015
26	11	Email correspondence, 2015
27	1-2	Email correspondence, 2015
27	3	Archives/office records, 2015
27	4-9	Patron research, 2014
27	10	Archives/office records, 2014
27	11	In-person visits, 2015
27	12-13	Reference, 2015
28	1	Donor relations, 2015
28	2-4	Archive/Office general records, 2015-2016
28	5	In-person visits, 2016
28	6	Telephone calls, 2016
28	7	Email correspondence, 2016
28	8-9	Donor relations, 2016
28	10-11	Patron research, 2016
28	12	Patron visits, 2016
28	13	Email correspondence, 2016
28	14	Permission, photo use, 2016
28	15	Registration forms (completed), 2017
28	16	Donor relations, 2017

Jeff Sauve Research for Sons of Norway
Includes archival materials in some cases.

29	1	Patriotic pancakes, 2013
29	2	Viking wine, 2013
29	3	Looking back, 2013
29	4	Looking Back Milwaukee's Leif Erikson. 2011
29	5	Looking Back Emil Epseland, 2013
29	6	Looking Back Flour Sacks, 2013
29	7	Looking Back Windmills, 2013
29	8	Looking Back Covered Wagons, 2013
29	9	Looking Back Canada, 2017

29	10	Looking Back Discovering Norway, 2013
29	11	Thea Foss, 2013
29	12	Michigan timber, 2013
29	13	Longseth long-bearded man, 2013
29	14	Looking back poster, 2012
29	15	Looking Back Soelberg photo, 2012
29	16	Looking Back October Blizzard, 2012
29	17	Lookin Back Ole Bull, 2012
29	18	Looking Back Olympic-Sized Hoaxes, 2012
29	19	Looking Back Tobacco, 2011
29	20	Looking Back Smaragd, 2012
30	1	Archives visitor log, 1966 September-1971 March
30	2	Archives policies, 2003
30	3	Archives statistics, 1975
30	4	Archival materials to other institutions, 1950-1984
30	5	Archives of the ALC (Della Olsen) correspondence, 1969-1981
30	7	NAHA and St. Olaf Archives agreement, 2003-2004
30	8	Guest record, 2000-2005
30	9	Archives inquiries, 2018-2019
30	10	Research forms/Reading Room guidelines, 2017-2018
31	7	Reading Room guideline forms, 2019-2024
31	8	One-time use permission forms, 2019-2024
35		NAHA book collection (now in St. Olaf Special Collections) and National Union Catalog of Manuscripts Collections card catalog records from the Library of Congress
36		Archive visitor log, 1987-2000
		Archives Donor Forms and Accession Logs
16	7	Archival donations, 2007
16	9	Acknowledgement 2008-09
18	5-6	Acknowledgements 2009-10
19	6	Donor Acknowledgements 2011
19	11	Donor Acknowledgements 2011
20	14	Donor Acknowledgements 2010-11
25	8	Donor acknowledgement Jun-Dec 2013
26	3	Donor acknowledgements Jan-May 2014
27	5	Donor acknowledgements Jun-Dec 2014
30	6	Archives correspondence, 2000-2009 Includes donor acknowledgements.
30	11	Deed of Gift forms, 2019
31	1	Donor agreements, 2006-2007
31	2-6	Deed of gift forms, 2019-2004
32		Accession legacy records A-H
33		Accession legacy records I-O
34		Accession legacy records P-Y

